

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125459

TOSEC 127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS

REF: SECTO 18

TO EAGLEBURGER FROM HYLAND

1. FOLLOWING IS INR ROUNDUP OF FOREIGN PRESS REACTIONS TO
SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE AVAILABLE AS OF 1400 EDT:

2. BRITAIN: SECRETARY'S THREAT TO RESIGN GOT BIG FRONT-
PAGE HEADLINES.

(A) A GUARDIAN EDITORIAL DECLARED: "IF DR. KISSINGER
CARRIED OUT HIS THREAT TO RESIGN BECAUSE OF ATTACKS ON HIM
OVER WATERGATE IT WOULD BE A SAD DAY NOT ONLY FOR PRESIDENT
NIXON AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT FOR THE WORLD. IN THE
MIDDLE EAST PARTICULARLY, THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PATIENT
DIPLOMACY IS JUST BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT, BUT IT WILL NEED
CAREFUL TENDING. HIS REMOVAL FROM THE SCENE WOULD ADD TO
THE PRECARIOUS NATURE OF THE PEACE THERE."

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(B) DAILY MAIL SAID THAT THE SECRETARY, BY TIMING THIS THREAT TO COINCIDE WITH "TRIUMPHAL PEACE TOUR" THROUGH MIDDLE EAST, WAS "TRYING TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SOMETHING: IT IS NOT HE WHO HAS LOST HIS SENSE OF PERSPECTIVE THROUGH WATERGATE, IT IS AMERICA."

(C) THE YORKSHIRE POST EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE SECRETARY'S THREAT HAS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. HIS CEASELESS ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST MONTH HAVE COME CLOSE TO WEARING HIM OUT, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. HE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO DO HIS JOB IF HE HAS TO DEVOTE MUCH OF HIS ENERGY TO COUNTER ALLEGATIONS OF PERJURY.

3. FRANCE:

(A) LE FIGARO DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY'S BEHAVIOR AT HIS SALZBURG PRESS CONFERENCE AS THAT OF A MAN WHO INTENDS TO USE THE ULTIMATE WEAPON--THE THREAT OF RESIGNATION AND AT THE SAME TIME OF ENDING DIPLOMATIC ACTION WHICH IS APPROACHING CULMINATION. THE PAPER ASKED WHETHER SOMEONE IS TRYING TO REACH THE PRESIDENT THROUGH THE SECRETARY. THE SECRETARY THUS FINDS HIMSELF BROUGHT DOWN TO THE DIMENSIONS OF AN INSTRUMENT OF THE PRESIDENT, A FUNCTIONARY WHOSE SUCCESS COULD PROP UP THE POSITION OF THE LATTER AND WHOM, CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO REDUCE TO POWERLESSNESS.

(B) THE PRO-GOVERNMENT FRANCE-SOIR STATED: "IF OUR INFORMATION IS ACCURATE, KISSINGER LIED TO THE SENATORS, AND PERJURY IS CONSIDERED A SERIOUS OFFENSE IN THE UNITED STATES. ALL THIS, TO BE SURE, DOES NOT SUIT NIXON WHO HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO EXPLOIT TO THE MAXIMUM THE PRESTIGE ENJOYED BY KISSINGER."

(C) THE INFLUENTIAL FINANCIAL DAILY, LES ECHOS, EDITORIALIZED THAT "THE JUSTICE SEEKERS OF THE LIBERAL PRESS MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME. IF, AS IS PROBABLE, DUE APOLOGIES ARE EVENTUALLY MADE TO THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF MIGHT ALSO BENEFIT INDIRECTLY FROM A REACTION OF WEARINESS AMONG PUBLIC OPINION."
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4. GERMANY: WEST GERMAN PAPERS EXPRESSED ALARM AT THE PROSPECT OF THE SECRETARY'S RESIGNATION. THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG HOPED THAT THE SECRETARY COULD RID HIMSELF OF THE SUSPICION OF ILLEGAL ACTS, "FOR HIS RESIGNATION WOULD BE A GRAVE LOSS FOR OVERALL WORLD POLICIES." NOTING HIS "UNPRECEDENTED" CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THE PAPER CONTINUED: "SINCE

IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT NIXON CAN NO LONGER BE RULED OUT, KISSINGER...IS CONSIDERED THE GUARANTOR FOR AN UNINTERRUPTED CONTINUATION OF US DETENTE POLICY UNDER NIXON'S SUCCESSOR, FORD. IT WOULD...BE PARADOXICAL IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOW SHOULD MEET HIS FATE WHILE HIS MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY INCRIMINATED CHIEF REMAINS IN OFFICE."

5. USSR: THERE HAS BEEN NO SOVIET REACTION YET TO THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

6. HUNGARY: A RADIO BUDAPEST REPORT SAID THAT A CRITICAL POINT HAS BEEN REACHED IN THE "DOMESTIC POLICY STRUGGLE FOR POWER" IN THE US AND THAT "THE ATTACK IS NOW DIRECTED, THROUGH THE PERSON OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AGAINST THE MAIN FOREIGN POLICY LINE OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION."

7. CHINA: SO FAR WE HAVE NOTED NO CHINESE REACTION.

8. JAPAN:

(A) ASAHI, REPORTING FROM SALZBURG, DOUBTED THAT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WAS MERE BLUFF. "NO MATTER WHAT HE INTENDED, IT IS A FACT THAT THE STATEMENT HAS AMPLIFIED THE UNEASINESS AND WARINESS ON THE PART OF THE LEADERS OF THE FIVE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT REGARDING THE STABILITY OF THE NIXON-KISSINGER LINE. IT HAS INTRODUCED SOMETHING UNPLEASANT INTO THEIR JOURNEY."

(B) MAINICHI COMMENTED FROM SALZBURG THAT THE "PRESS CONFERENCE OF ANGER" WAS IN A WAY "THE STAGING OF A TRAGEDY OF THE NIXON REGIME, WHICH HAS STARTED AN OVERSEAS TOUR WITH THE WATERGATE SCANDAL ON ITS BACK."
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(C) TOKYO SHIMBUN'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OBSERVED: "IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE US CONGRESS IS GOING TO TACKLE THE TOUGH JOB OF RE-EXAMINING THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS (AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS) WITH A VIEW TO PROVING HIS INNOCENCE WITHOUT INJURING THE DIPLOMATIC POLICY THAT HE HAS PURSUED SO FAR."

9. ISRAEL: ALL NEWSPAPERS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE SECRETARY'S JUNE 11 PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 12. AN AL-HAMISHMAR EDITORIAL STATED THAT IT WAS AN INDICATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH WATERGATE PREOCCUPIES THE US ADMINISTRATION AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP IS TIED TO US POLITICS. A MAARIV EDITORIAL SAID THAT THE SINCERITY, SPONTANEITY, AND UNWISDOM OF THE

PRESS CONFERENCE REVEALED A VERY HUMAN DIMENSION OF THE SECRETARY.

10. JORDAN: AL-RA'Y STATED THAT INVOLVING THE SECRETARY'S NAME IN WATERGATE "CLEARLY REVEALS THE NATURE OF THE FORCES WHO ARE DIRECTING THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF AND...HIS AIDES EVEN IF THEY ARE

JEWS." THE PAPER SAID THAT IT IS AN ALARM BELL FOR AMERICANS ABOUT WHETHER THE US WILL ACHIEVE A POLICY BASED ON ITS OWN INTERESTS OR ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY.

11. PAKISTAN: THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS GIVEN HEADLINE NEWS COVERAGE IN THE PAKISTANI PRESS, BUT WE HAVE NOTED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT YET. SISCO

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